

because in many instances natural phænomena have been referred to the Druids,—‘rocking-stones’ derived from erratic blocks, and ‘altars’ from cliffs wasted by the atmosphere. The ‘Cow and Calf,’ near Ilkley, are natural objects; so are most of the picturesque crags and standing stones of Brimham; evidences of operations which began long before the Druids exercised their spells. Some of the ‘rocking-stones’ near Settle are blocks of the slate of Ribblesdale, drifted by the force of water or floated by ice, and dropped on the bare surface of the limestone. Among many such some are so shaped, and may be so placed, as to be easily moved backward and forward, through small spaces, and thus become ‘rocking’ stones (Pl. 5).

Still, after omitting these exceptions, cases of *arrangement* of stones in groups of three or four, and in rude circles or rings, remain to prove the respect, if not veneration, with which these durable memorials of forgotten events and banished creeds were formerly regarded. Mr. Wright views the circles of stone as being often but the remains of a cairn or mound, the earth of which has been removed. This suggestion, though it can seldom be applied to the wild and deserted moors on which many of these stones are placed in Yorkshire, ought not to be lost sight of. It is extremely probable that the two classes of works are based on the same fundamental idea—an enclosed space for assemblies—for families—and for the dead, and this increases the probability that they may have been constructed by the same people.

This idea is not characteristically Celtic; for it is fully recognized in Scandinavia, in the conical earth-mounds, cairns containing one or two circles of stone, and in such circles independent of mounds. Nor are single memorial stones, or enclosures marked by four stones, uncommon there. Nor are the contents of their earlier tumuli—the work of their age of stone—when opened, different in general characters from what we find in ours,—skeletons, in similar position, surrounded by the same materials,—ashes, urns, instruments of bone, the animals killed